

CLAIMS:

1. A method of communicating with a medical device (10), in which an interface (12) is provided to which either measurement means (14) or an external device (16) can be connected and via which measured signals or data are transmitted from the measurement means (14) or the external device (16) to the medical device (10).

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2. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the interface (12) operates in a measurement mode when measurement means (14) are connected and in a communication mode when an external device (16) is connected.

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3. A method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that in the communication mode a software update is transmitted from a connected external device (16) into the medical device (10) via the interface (12).

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4. A method as claimed in claim 2 or 3, characterized in that a changeover between measurement mode and communication mode is effected automatically depending on whether measurement means (14) or an external device (16) are or is connected to the interface (12).

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5. A method as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the automatic changeover is effected by means of software of the medical device (10), a switch at the interface (12) or electronically by an operating mode circuit in the medical device (10).

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6. A method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the interface comprises contacts which can be used both in the measurement mode and in the communication mode.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that all contacts required for the communication mode can also be used in the measurement mode.

8. An apparatus for communicating with a medical device (10), which apparatus comprises an interface (12) that is designed such that either measurement means (14) or an external device (16) can be connected to it and measured signals or data can be transmitted from the measurement means (14) or the external device (16) to the medical device (10) via it.

9. A medical device (10) with an apparatus for communication, which apparatus comprises an interface (12) that is designed such that either measurement means (14) or an external device (16) can be connected to it and measured signals or data can be transmitted from the measurement means (14) or the external device (16) to the medical device (10) via it.

10. An apparatus as claimed in claim 8 or a medical device as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the interface (12) is designed such that it operates in a measurement mode when measurement means (14) are connected and in a communication mode when an external device (16) is connected.

11. An apparatus or a medical device as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the interface (12) is designed such that in the communication mode a software update can be transmitted from a connected external device (16) into the medical device (10) via the interface (12).

12. An apparatus or a medical device as claimed in claim 10 or 11, characterized in that the interface is designed such that a changeover between measurement mode and communication mode can be effected automatically.

13. An apparatus or a medical device as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that software of the medical device (10) is designed for the automatic changeover, or a switch at the interface (12) or an operating mode circuit in the medical device (10) is provided for the automatic changeover.

14. An apparatus or a medical device as claimed in one of claims 9 to 13, characterized in that the interface comprises contacts which can be used both in the measurement mode and in the communication mode.

15. An apparatus or a medical device as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that all contacts required for the communication mode can also be used in the measurement mode.